



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2008

Contact: Linda McCandless, llm3@cornell.edu, 607-254-5137

Researcher Justine Vanden Heuvel awarded grant from President's Council of Cornell Women

By Joe Ogrodnick

Justine Vanden Heuvel, assistant professor of viticulture in the department of horticultural sciences at Cornell's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, has received a 2008 Affinito-Stewart grant for \$11,820 from the President's Council of Cornell Women (PCCW). Vanden Heuvel plans to use the grant to support research to create portable grapevine canopy exposure maps that could help growers forecast fruit and wine quality.

"The goal of this work is to determine whether the new exposure maps can be used as a predictor of fruit and wine quality," Vanden Heuvel said. "Jim Meyers, a Ph.D. student in my program, developed a model that adds a number of new metrics to point quadrat analysis, which is a standard method for characterizing grapevine canopy microclimates."

Vanden Heuvel added that the proposed exposure model could become a new standard method of calibrating and modeling the spatial relationships and sunlight distribution within grapevine canopies. Because it can be used in any growing region, on any grape variety, and with any training system, its adoption has the potential to enable stronger correlations among isolated studies and thus will enhance interregional and international collaboration.

"This new tool also allows production of exposure maps for leaves and clusters in grapevine canopies," she added. "The improved level of precision of the exposure model is expected to provide growers with narrower and more statistically significant correlations between their cultural practices and fruit quality, leading to a more precise understanding of the relationship between cultural practices and wine quality. This, in turn, might enable growers to take more specific, lower-input actions to control the quality of their grapes."

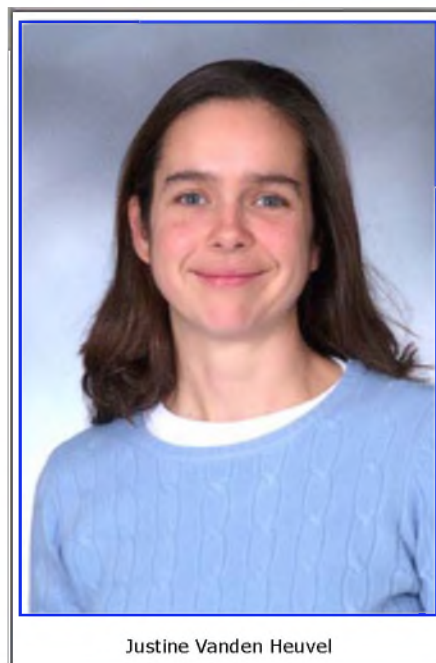
More than 20 Cornell faculty reviewed Vanden Heuvel's grant proposal, and she is the only College of Agriculture and Life Sciences professor to receive the award in 2008.

"I am most pleased that Justine is one of four recipients this year for the Affinito-Stewart grants program sponsored by the President's Council of Cornell Women," said Alan Taylor, horticultural sciences chair at Geneva.

The PCCW was founded in 1990 by then-University President Frank H. T. Rhodes with the leadership of University Trustees Lilyan Affinito '53 and Patricia Carry Stewart '50. PCCW is comprised of accomplished alumnae, and membership is by invitation of the university president with a special emphasis on involving alumnae not previously active in alumni organizations.

PCCW's mission is to advance the involvement of women students, faculty, staff, and alumnae as leaders within Cornell University and throughout its many constituent communities.

###



Justine Vanden Heuvel

Search all **NYSAES** press releases

Search

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, 630 West North Street, Geneva, New York 14456
Telephone: 315.787.2011



Last Modified: October 31, 2008
Comments to: [webfeedback](#)

